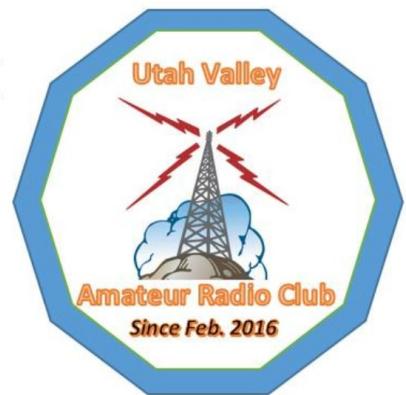


The Amateur in You, Part 1

What have you been pondering?



Preparation checklist for an approaching storm

You've been warned in advance of a major storm that's approaching your area. Chances are, your family and home will survive it without a problem. Still, you'd like to have a checklist of what you can prepare with the few hours you have. This one might help.

Kinds of "storms" to prepare for

- Weather (thunderstorm, heavy wind, severe cold / heat)
- Earthquake (tremors, aftershocks)
- Water (flooding, mud slide, dam break)
- Terrorist attack (foreign, local riot)
- Solar event (CME, EMP, other)

Plug in the battery chargers

- __Phone
- __Radios (ham, FRS, broadcast, etc.)
- __Lights (headlamp, flashlight, work light)
- __Computer (laptop, tablet)
- __Power bank
- __Tools (drill motor, GPS, etc.)
- __Other (CPAP, toy, etc.)

Unplug unnecessary appliances

- __Except as listed here
- __The fridge is necessary, but the washer, the dryer, and the A/C are not
- __Limit the amount of house-powered lights
- __Ensure gas appliances are turned off

Test

- __Your smoke and CO detectors
- __Your radios (review frequencies*)
- __Your generator (not in your garage)

Review locations

- __Your first-aid supplies
- __Your food and water supplies
- __Your important documents and photos
- __Your GPS coordinates
- __Your pets

Fill your fuel tanks

- __Vehicle fuel
- __Portable propane tanks
- __Generator fuel
- __Other (cooking butane, heating kerosene)

Close your fireplace damper

- __Keeps your home heat from escaping
- __Ensure it's open if even the smallest ember is alive, however

Special window measures for a hurricane or tornado

- __Screw sheets of plywood over your windows
- __Stay away from all windows if possible

Other things to consider

- __Replace your furnace filter
- __Ensure all your windows are closed
- __Pay attention to news (radio, TV, phone, internet) for storm developments
- __Withdraw a couple hundred dollars of cash

Inform a relative or friend

- __Email or text a couple of friends or relatives outside your trouble area
- Tell why you believe trouble is on the way
- Give them your location (GPS too)
- Let them know who's with you

Be prepared to evacuate if needed

- __Know at least two evacuations routes
- __Review what you'll take with you

Avoid water sources (shower, tub, sink, drains) as much as possible

- They can become an electric shock hazard
- They can become contaminated, depending on the event

*Your frequencies should include your 1) area (stake), 2) city, 3) ARES, 4) National Simplex, and 5) popular repeaters